

# **ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER**

**No 1, Fall 2003**

Welcome to the first issue of the Armed Forces Medical Library Newsletter! We hope you will find interesting and useful tips in the Newsletter to help you with your research projects.

## **Finding the Library**

Need ready access to library phone numbers? Stop by and pick up a card for your Rolodex that has all the library phone numbers, e-mail address, and Web site. This handy card will keep the data at your fingertips!

## **Library Databases**

Do you need to access the latest medical or health business information? Nursing literature? Psychology literature? Want to know what is being written about the military in general interest or military specific publications? The library makes available several databases that can be used to find this information.

You can use OVID to find medical and nursing literature, the Cochrane databases of systematic reviews, and evidence-based medicine resources. Some of the journals are available in full text.

MDConsult allows you to access the full text of approximately 40 medical textbooks, 48 journals, 600 clinical practice guidelines, patient handouts, and has a search interface to PubMed. Other interesting and useful features include a News link which links to top health related news stories and a section called "What Patients Are Reading."

Health Business Full text is a source for articles discussing health care administration and health care management. The focus is on non-clinical articles related to the business aspects of health care.

If you would like to find references to articles on complementary, alternative, and integrated medicine approaches to health and wellness, the ALT-HEALTHWATCH database may be of interest to you.

EBSCO's Military & Government Collection has many full text citations to articles in military publications and general interest magazines. The emphasis is on the military and federal government.

PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES is the place to look for references to journal articles, book chapters, books, dissertations and reports in the field of psychology. PsycARTICLES has more than 25,000 full text articles from journals published by the American Psychological Association and affiliated organizations.

STAT!Ref is another place to look for full text access to approximately 30 medical textbooks. This database has a strong emphasis on pharmaceutical literature.

UpToDate is the latest addition to the library's suite of databases and has over 6,000 peer-reviewed topics in primary care internal medicine, family practice, ob/gyn, and other specialties.

All of the databases can be accessed from the computers in the library, your desktop PC, or your home PC. For more information on how to obtain access give the library staff a call or send an e-mail message to [afml@tma.osd.mil](mailto:afml@tma.osd.mil)

If you can't find what you need or don't have time to search, give the library a call. The librarians are more than willing to help you and can search all of the above databases as well as many more to find the information you need.

## "On the Web vs. Via the Web"

There are so many things to say about the Web that it's difficult to know where to start. It is a popular tool used to find information, but the Web is always changing, there are many search engines, everything isn't free, and there are some things you simply will not find on the Web for various reasons. And, added to all this is the concept of finding information on the Web vs. through the Web. This section will focus on the difference between "on the Web vs. via the Web".

First, "on the Web vs. via the Web." If something is on the Web it is generally free and may turn up in the list of results you retrieve from a basic search engine search. It can be a document, report, article, PDF file, or spreadsheet and anyone can have loaded it - reputable or not.

If something is available through the Web it may not turn up in a list of search engine results because it is from a proprietary source such as Dialog or Lexis/Nexis or one of the databases the library makes available. A proprietary source is not freely available and requires a fee and a password to access.

## Search Engines - More than Google

Some of the search engines you may want to try in addition to Google (<http://www.google.com>) when looking for information are HotBot (<http://www.hotbot.com>), AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com>), AlltheWeb (<http://www.alltheweb.com>), and Teoma (<http://www.teoma.com>). All of the search

engines have an advanced search feature you may want to use to help refine your results. If you decide you want to delve further into any specific engine you may want to look at the Help that is available for each of the search engines. Finding the Help section on most of the search engines is fairly intuitive but AltaVista's is somewhat buried. You have to click on the word "More" at the end of the Tools line to get to it.

If you're looking for photos, AltaVista, AlltheWeb and Google have an Images tab you can use to limit the search to photos on your topic. Pictures are one of the more elusive things to find so the Images feature is helpful.

AltaVista and Google also have a Directory tab that organizes information by subject. If you're interested in the latest news items, Google and AltaVista have a News tab you can use. AlltheWeb has an option labeled News but you need to put in a search term first - it doesn't offer news items when you click on the option.

All of the search engines return different results because of the depth of indexing the crawlers of each search engine uses. A crawler, for those not familiar with the term, is a software search engines use to find Web pages to include in the search engine's index. Not all of the pages are crawled 100% - this varies by search engine.

Useful as the search engines are in helping you find information, they should not be the only resource you use in your research. It may be helpful to visit the library where one of the reference librarians can run a search for you and locate information that may reside in one of the many databases the library has access to.

## Survey Design - Bibliography of Resources Available in the Library

Caplovitz, David. *The Stages of Social Research*. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 1983. 434 p. HM 48 C36

The author, a graduate of Columbia University, spent more than 30 years in research. The book is a review of his experience as a researcher and centers around four main themes; writing a successful proposal to obtain funding for the project, collection of data, analysis of data, and writing the research report. The section on proposal writing includes examples of successful proposals as well as an example of a losing proposal.

Dillman, Don A. *Mail and Internet Surveys: the Tailored Design Method*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 2000. 464 p. WA 950 D578m 2000

The first edition of this work, *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method*, was published in 1978. In this edition, Dillman briefly explains the Total Design Method, introduces the Tailored Design method, and highlights the similarities and differences between the two. The book includes chapters dealing with writing survey questions, implementing the survey, and reducing errors in coverage and sampling. The second part of the book focuses on tailoring to the survey situation and covers a wide range of survey types - customer satisfaction surveys, government surveys of households and individuals, surveys of businesses and other organizations, Internet surveys, and

interactive voice response surveys(IVRs). The final chapter deals with the use of computer technology to tabulate survey Responses.

Fink, Arlene, editor. The Survey Kit. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications; 1995. 9 vols. HN 29 .S724 1995

Each book in this 9 volume set covers a different part of the survey process. The first volume, The Survey Handbook, is an introduction to the survey process. Other volumes in the set include: How to Ask Survey Questions; How to Conduct Self-Administered and Mail Surveys; How to Conduct Interviews by Telephone and In Person; How to Design Surveys; How to Sample in Surveys; How to Measure Survey Reliability and Validity; How to Analyze Survey Data; and How to Report on Surveys.

Korn, Edward L.; Graubard, Barry I. Analysis of Health Surveys. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 1999. 382 p. WA 950 K84a 1999

The text, as stated by the authors in the Preface, is most useful for individuals with a background in statistics. Also stated in the preface, the purpose of the text is "to describe methods for analyzing health surveys so that a reader who knows statistical methods for analyzing data in the nonsurvey setting can apply these methods appropriately to survey data." The first five chapters describe theory and methods for analyzing survey data with a focus on health surveys. Chapters 6 through 9 are organized by the type of analysis used - cross-sectional analysis, analysis of longitudinal surveys, analyses using multiple surveys, and population based case control studies. A few of the major health surveys analyzed in the text include the Current Population Survey, the 1990 National Hospital Discharge Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, the 1988 National Maternal and Infant Health Survey, and the 1986 Mortality Followback Survey. A brief description of all surveys analyzed in the text is included in one of the appendices.

Lessler, Judith T.; Kalsbeek, William D. Nonsampling Error in Surveys. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 1992. 412 p. QA 275 .L44 1992

The book opens with a discussion and brief history of survey error and where during the course of a survey problems leading to an error in estimates can occur. With the exception of the last chapter which discusses two general error models, the rest of the book is organized according to frame error, nonresponse error, and measurement error. A compendium of nonsampling error terminology used in the text is included.

Oral Health Surveys: Basic Methods. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. England: World Health Organization; 1997. 66 p. WU 30 O63 1997

This edition builds on the experience gained from surveys in earlier editions of the manual and also presents an updated version of the WHO Oral Health Assessment Form. The manual should be of practical use to individuals involved in oral epidemiology and oral health care planning.

Rea, Louis M.; Parker, Richard A. Designing and Conducting Survey Research: A Comprehensive Guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass; 1997. 254 p. HA31.2 .R43 1997

The text is intended to serve as a reference for working professionals who wish to conduct surveys and undergraduate and graduate students wanting to understand survey research. The book is organized into three parts. The first part of the text presents the basics of designing effective questionnaires, writing survey questions, and administering the questionnaire. A new chapter to this work is the utilization of focus groups in the survey process. Part two focuses on understanding sampling theory, determining sample size, and selecting a representative sample. The third part of the book concentrates on analysis of the data gathered and preparation of a final report. A glossary of terms is also included.

Robinson, Lisa B.; Namovicz-Peat, Susan, editors. Guide to Patient Satisfaction Survey Instruments: Profiles of Patient Satisfaction Measurement Instruments and Their Use by Health Plans, Employers, Hospitals, Insurers, and Physicians. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Atlantic Information Services, Inc; 1998. 202 p. W 85 G946 1998

The text is divided into three sections, organizations that develop surveys, organizations that use surveys, and samples of patient satisfaction surveys. The section listing organizations developing surveys include, among other information, a description of the organization, a description and overview of the survey developed, and profile of the group completing the survey. The section listing organizations using surveys provides an overview of the organization, information about the survey used, profile of the group completing the survey, and the purpose for which the survey was used.

Send comments or suggestions to [afml@tma.osd.mil](mailto:afml@tma.osd.mil)

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